

International Tournament Pathway

Contents

Outline	1
Glossary.....	2
Event Standards' Guidelines	2
Australia	4
Oceania	4
Commonwealth Fencing	4
Asia.....	5
Europe.....	6
FIE – International Fencing Federation	6
United States national and regional	9
Asian national and domestic.....	10

Outline

The following list provides information for fencers who wish to participate in international tournaments. It provides information for a pathway for fencers to achieve selection for NZ teams attending Commonwealth, Asian, World Championship and other selection based events. This information is in addition to “Planning your Fencing Pathway”, which provides guidance on training and competition <https://www.fencing.org.nz/resources/documents/development-programme>.

Selection Criteria can be found in the website in the following link:

<https://www.fencing.org.nz/resources/documents/policies>

- **Competitions with an asterisk * are selection events. Fencers need to Nominate at the appropriate time and they need to have participated in national tournaments in New Zealand to achieve selection level.**
- **Competitions with a double asterisk ** are selection events that require a higher level of performance including achieving a certain level in international tournaments.**
- **The Olympics and the World University Games are *** event**
Fencers aiming for the Olympics are required to qualify first under IOC rules, then qualify for the NZ Team under NZOC qualification criteria.
Fencers aiming to qualify for the World University Games have additional criteria that are revised from time to time.

NB. Disruption caused by the Covid19 pandemic have meant changes to many tournaments.

Glossary

FIE	International Fencing Federation (Fédération internationale d'escrime) fie.org . The world governing body of fencing.
AFC	Asian Fencing Confederation – Zone governing body – includes Oceania and New Zealand www.asian-fencing.com
EFC	European Fencing Confederation: www.eurofencing.info
OFC	Oceania Fencing Confederation
AFF	Australian Fencing Federation
Cadet	Under 17 on 1 January of the year
Junior	Under 20 of 1 January of the year
U23	Under 23 on 1 January of the year
Veteran	+35 to +50 years old – depending on region and tournament
NZOC	New Zealand Olympic Committee
IOC	International Olympic Committee

Ranking Points

- **The FIE** awards points for its international competitions – apart from the “Cadet” events and the Commonwealth events (which are not official FIE events). Points are awarded with increasing value – Zone Championships -> World Cup -> Grand Prix -> World Championships -> Olympic Games.
- **The EFC, AFC** and countries have their own ranking systems. Points can be awarded for international competitions in the Fencing NZ ranking system.

Event Standards' Guidelines

International tournament standards vary significantly. This guide is to help understand the levels of each tournament and provide steps to the higher-level events.

It is important to note that the AFC, EFC and FIE events (and some national tournaments) work on a “elimination” basis – so circa 20-30% of the fencers are eliminated after the Poule round and do not progress to the Direct Elimination tournament. In addition, FIE Senior World Cup and Grand Prix events have a 3-step process – the top [15] ranked fencers in the world are not required to fence in the preliminary rounds and go straight into the final direct elimination competition.

- Stage 1:** The first step is to fence in Australia. Often the age group national championship events (particularly the Cadet and lower age groups) will include fencers from Singapore or Japan (for example), who see this as a safe and fun international event for their own international pathways. This increases the standard of the competition significantly. Other countries in Asia welcome fencers from New Zealand.
- New Zealand fencers need to meet Fencing New Zealand's selection requirements to participate in Australian Under 15, Cadet and Junior, and U23 Championship events. New Zealand seniors have open entry to Australian Nationals for individual events (selections may apply for team events where necessary). The AFF also runs national 'circuit' events at senior and some age group levels. These competitions are open to New Zealand fencers and no Fencing NZ selection requirements apply. Fencing New Zealand's selection criteria for age group and senior FIE Zonal and world championship events include the achievement of performance benchmarks at AFF circuit and national events.
- Stage 2:** The next stage is to fence in one of the Regional Circuit events – for example the Asian Cadet Circuit. The standard of these events depends on the teams attending. Competitions could be combined to make the most of a tour. No selection from Fencing NZ is required to enter these tournaments, but for an Asian Circuit tournament, you need an AFC Licence and Entry through Fencing NZ.
- Stage 3:** Europe – the European federations offer a range of tournaments and a tour to Europe can take in many opportunities to compete and train. The EFC offers U14 tournaments, Cadets and U23 age group circuits. The standard of these tournaments is very high and participation from most European nations. No selection is required to enter these tournaments but an EFC event would need an EFC Licence and entry via Fencing NZ.
- Stage 4:** FIE competitions:
- The FIE offer a Junior World Cup series in different locations around the world for under 20 year old fencers. These are of the highest standard in age group fencing.
- The next stage is the Satellite series – which are open events and have FIE senior ranking points.
- World Cup and Grand Prix events are the next stage up and are offered in various cities. These are the highest standard of competition. Federations are allowed to enter up to 12 fencers per weapon and gender – so the competitions can be very large (World Championship events are restricted to 4 fencers per weapon per gender).
- There is no NZ selection required to enter these events, but as they are of top world standard, any up-and-coming fencer should participate in the range of other events before entering an FIE event.
- Stage 4a** Zone Championships and World Championship events. These are selection events. Younger fencers are expected to have achieved a certain performance in NZ national

open events and Australian open events to reach the required standard to be selected for these events.

Stage 5 Olympic Games – qualification includes winning a place through FIE ranking or Zonal Qualification event PLUS meeting the Selection Criteria for the NZ Olympic Team

Australia

New Zealand fencers can enter tournaments in Australia and New Zealand sends teams to the Juniors, Cadets/U15s – which are nomination events (you need to qualify to enter through performance in National events in NZ). The Open championships and Circuits are open entry. More information can be found of ausfencing.org.

Australian State Championships – all age groups	Direct entry and no selection required. Affiliation to NZ required.	
International U11, U14s Minime Challenge	Sydney	Held in November/December. Great competition to attend with coaches
Australian Cadet Circuit	New Format 2022 – different cities. No selection required.	
Australian U15 / Cadet Championships*	Normally Sydney	Held in July. NZ Managed Team
Australian Junior Championships*	Normally Melbourne	February or first half of year
Australian Fencing Circuit	4 Open tournaments throughout year. No selection required.	Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth
Australian Fencing Championships	Canberra or other city	Normally November / December

Oceania

The OFC often combine their Championships with either the Australian Championships or the New Zealand Championships. They are selection events if held outside New Zealand.

Commonwealth Fencing

Commonwealth Fencing Championships are held every four years, in the same year as the Commonwealth Games. Commonwealth Junior and/or Cadet Fencing Championships are held every

three or four years, and Commonwealth Veteran Fencing Championships every two years. These are all selection events. All fencers require an FIE Licence.

<https://www.commonwealthfencing.org/>

Asia

New Zealand fencers can compete in competitions throughout Asia. Some national tournaments can be entered directly by fencers (affiliation to Fencing NZ required if not a member of the national body where competition being held – an example of domestic/national tournaments in Asia is provided at the end of this document).

Any Asian competition at an international level normally requires an FCA Licence, which is purchased through Fencing NZ. Entry to these events is through Fencing NZ and competitions often have a Referee requirement – if more than 3 or 4 NZ fencers enter, the Federation is required to provide a Referee. If entering a team, the Federation is required to provide a Referee. A fine / fee can be paid in lieu of a Referee (can be USD500). Referees have to hold at least a “C” qualification and they require an FCA Licence.

More information is provided on www.asian-fencing.com (website appears to be under development as at 2022).

NB AFC tournaments operate on a cut off system after pools – the bottom ~20-25% of fencers will not progress into the Direct Elimination competition

Asian Cadet Circuit	Various cities and weapons. Entry through Fencing NZ	More information www.asianfencing.com (old website)
Asian Veteran Circuit	Various cities and weapons	
Asian Cadet and Junior Championships**	Junior competition is an FIE event. Cadet competition requires additional FCA Licence	
Asian U23 Fencing Championships**		
Asian Fencing Championships**	FIE Event	
Olympic Zone Qualifier**	FIE Event: Every 4 years – normally combined with Asian Championships	One entry allowed per weapon per gender. Olympic Qualification is subject to the IOC and NZOC qualification criteria
National competitions	Various cities	Fencer enters directly with competition organisers – will need affiliation to Fencing NZ or local national entity or both.
South East Asian Championships	Various Cities	Oceania fencers are sometimes invited to attend this

		tournament
South East Asian & Pacific Championships	Various cities – not every year. Entry through Fencing NZ	Friendly event and often combined with a Cadet Circuit

Europe

The European Fencing Confederation organises international tournaments for various age groups. NZ fencers can compete in these tournaments with an EFC Licence. Fencing NZ is required to enter the fencers and there are referee implications for teams or greater than 3 or 4 fencers. A fine can be paid if no referee (normally in the region of EUR500). Referees also require a Licence.

NB EFC tournaments operate on a cut off system after pools – the bottom 20-25% of fencers will not progress into the Direct Elimination competition

European Cadet Circuit	Various Cities. Entry through Fencing NZ	Often events are split by gender across different cities
U23 European Circuit	Various Cities. Entry through Fencing NZ	
U14 Pilot European Circuit	Various Cities. Entry through Fencing NZ	
National Competitions	Entry depends on national federation rules	

FIE – International Fencing Federation

The FIE organise Olympic Qualifiers, World Championships, Zone Championships, World Cups, Grand Prix and Satellite events. Normally split by weapon and gender across different cities around the world. A few events, like the Junior World Cup in Udine, combine some weapons and genders. Event calendar: fie.org

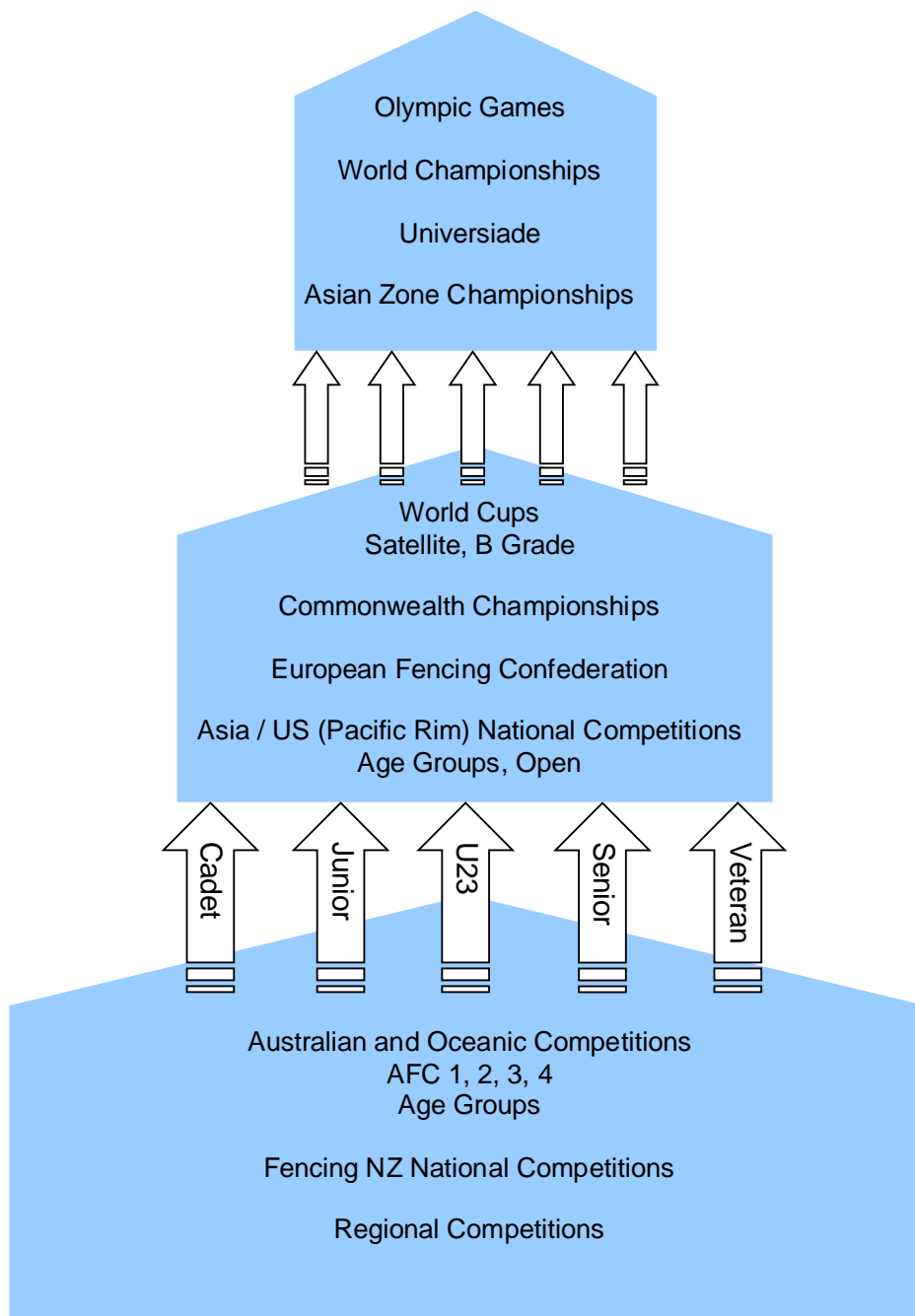
All events require an FIE Licence and entry through Fencing NZ. Referees AND Coaches also require an FIE Licence.

NB FIE tournaments operate on a cut off system after pools – the bottom 20 - 30% of fencers will not progress into the Direct Elimination competition. The bottom 30% of fencers after the pool round will not progress in Grand Prix tournaments, for example.

World Cup Junior events	Various cities – FIE Licence event – Fencing NZ entry	Team events (or greater than 3-4 fencers) entered kick off a Referee requirement or large fine.
Youth Olympics**		Selection first by Oceania and

		then by NZOC
Satellite events	Various cities	
World Cup events	Various cities	
Grand Prix events	Various cities	
Zone Championships **	Cadet, Junior and Senior	Cadet event entry normally through zone confederation
World Championships **	Cadet, Junior and Senior	
Asian Zone Olympic Qualifier**	Asian City – normally combined with Zone Championships	One fencer per weapon per gender per nation. Qualification is only one step on the pathway to the Olympics – NZOC have a Selection Criteria for NZ Fencers
World University Games**	Held every 2 years	Selection Criteria apply – in association with the UTSNZ. https://www.fisu.net/sport-events/fisu-world-university-games/summer-fisu-world-university-games
Olympic Games***		Selection by NZOC on criteria for Fencing

COMPETITION PATHWAY



Other international / domestic options

United States national and regional

The US have several tiers of fencing, most of which allow participation by non-US fencers.

Open Tournaments:

NAC's (North American Cups) - These are monthly and rotate around the country. They have different 'divisions', which have different levels of ability. If NZ fencers have competed in international competition before, they will probably be given a "C" grading, which allows a lot of flexibility around which division you can fence in. Often NAC's have multiple divisions at each competition, so you can fence multiple events at a single competition, for example, Division 1, 1A and 2. Division 1 winners will be consistently making at least the top 32's at Senior FIE events. For reference, our top ranked Woman Foilist in 2019 won a Division 2 competition in the US (she was a top 64 finisher in the Cadet World Championships in 2018 and 2019).

ROC's (Regional Open Cups) - These are regional open championships. The States are split into only 6 'regions'- so these are well attended and quite difficult. They also have "divisions" like the NAC's, so you can have some clarity around the minimum ability level.

Age group competitions – many strong competitions:

SJCC	Super Junior and Cadet Circuit	Junior, Cadet	Available Nationally	National
SYC	Super Youth Circuit	Y14,Y12,Y10	Available Nationally	National
ROC	Regional Open Circuit	Div I, Div II, Div III, Vet	Available Nationally	Regional (One List)
RJCC	Regional Junior and Cadet Circuit	Junior, Cadet	Available Regionally	Regional
RYC	Regional Youth Circuit	Y14,Y12,Y10	Available Regionally	Regional

To note - the difficulty of competitions can be variable based on their location. Strength of competition seems to be broadly related to population density - roughly how many people are nearby, and how many strong fencing clubs there are. For example, your average competition in New York, with a high population, might be significantly more difficult than something in Hawaii or Alaska (which have very small populations).

Asian national and domestic

Example of tournaments in 2022 -

Federation	Competition Name	Location	Typical Time of Year	Difficulty Ranking	Typical Entry Numbers
Brunei	Brunei Open	Brunei	Varies	4-5?	
China	2022 "Olympic Cup" Jilin Province Fencing League	Changchun, Jilin	3-5 April		*also has teams
China	2022 Nanjing Gaochun · Yaxi International Slow City Fencing	Nanjing, Jiangsu	9-10 April		
China	2022 "Sword in Mountain City" Chongqing Fencing Classic	Chongqing, Chongqing	16-17 April		
China	2022 "Wanguo Sports" Fencing Open	Shanghai, Shanghai	16-17 April		
China	2022 Qingdao Fencing Open	Jinan, Shandong	3-5 June		
China	2022 Jinan Fencing Open	Jinan, Shandong	2-4 October		
China	7th Chongqing Fencing Open	Chongqing, Chongqing	4-6 November		
China	2022 Hubei Provincial Fencing Open	Wuhan, Hubei	July TBC		
China	2022 Great Wall Fencing Open	Shijiazhuang, Hebei	August TBC		
China	2022 "Grand Canal" Cup	Yangzhou, Jiangsu	August TBC		
China	2022 Guangdong Fencing Association City Club League Final	Zhuhai, Guangdong	December TBC		
Chinese Taipei	National First Fencing Championships*	Taipei, Taiwan	March?	7	
Chinese Taipei	Taipei Open	Tauyuan City, Taiwan	October?	7	
Hong Kong	Blue Cross Hong Kong Open Championships	Hong Kong	December	8	80-100 MF/ME, 50 MS/WE/WF, 30 WS
Hong Kong	LCSD Open*	Hong Kong	October	8	80-100 MF/ME, 50 MS/WE/WF, 30 WS
Indonesia	West Java Fencing Championship			4-5?	
Japan					
Macau	National Fencing Ranking Tournament 1	Macau	March 19-20	4-5?	
Macau	National Fencing Ranking Tournament 2	Macau	June 4-5	4-5?	
Macau	National Fencing Ranking Tournament 3	Macau	November TBC	4-5?	
Malaysia	Malaysia Open		August?	4-5?	
Philippines					
Singapore	Singapore Senior Championships	Singapore	Varies	7	
Singapore	Fencing Singapore International	Singapore	Varies	7	
South Korea					
Thailand	Thai Army Open	Bangkok*	Varies	6	
Thailand	Thai Airforce Open	Bangkok*	Varies	6	
Thailand	Thai Navy Open	Bangkok*	Varies	6	
Thailand	Thailand Open Championships	Bangkok*	September	7	